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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Examiner: L.C. MAIER

KUEN YONG LEE ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/722,010

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: November 27, 2000

Title: REVERSIBLY CROSS-LINKED HYDROGELS

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2002, and the requirement for an election of species therein, applicants hereby elect the species of Group 1, wherein the hydrogel polymer is a polysaccharide. If a more specific species election is necessary, applicants would elect the synthetic alginate as hydrogel polymer, see, e.g., claim 6. Claims 1-18 read on the elected species.

The Examiner is encouraged to examine the broadest possible scope of invention indicated by the elected species.

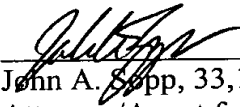
In accordance with M.P.E.P. §803.02, the examiner is reminded that, should no prior art be found which renders the invention of the elected species unpatentable, the search of the remainder of the generic claim(s) should be continued in the same application. It is improper for

the PTO to refuse to examine in one application the entire scope of the claims therein unless they lack unity of invention. The generic claims herein have not been alleged to lack unity of invention.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 6, 2002